

ABSTRACT

Provided is a method for characterising an analyte by matrix assisted laser desorption ionisation (MALDI) mass spectrometry, which method comprises:

- (a) labelling the analyte with a light-absorbing label that absorbs light at a pre-determined frequency, to form a labelled analyte;
- (b) embedding the labelled analyte in a matrix formed from at least one compound that absorbs light, to form an embedded labelled analyte;
- (c) desorbing the embedded labelled analyte by exposing it to light having the pre-determined frequency, to form a desorbed analyte; and
- (d) detecting the desorbed analyte by mass spectrometry to characterise the analyte.